

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:)
Lawrence E. Foltzer, et al.) Art Unit: 2882
Serial No.: 09/838,085)
Filed: April 18, 2001) Examiner: T. Artman
For: V GROOVE OPTIC SWITCH)

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 8, 2003, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

10/20/2003 AWONDAF1 00000044 09838085
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

on October 8, 2003
Deborah A. McGovern
Name of Person Mailing Correspondence
DMS/Debrah 10-8-03
Signature Date

6,421,153 of Way et al. ("Way"). Claims 6 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shigematsu, Buchholz, and Way, and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,108,467 of Naraoka et al. ("Naraoka"). Claims 7 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shigematsu in view of U.S. Patent Application 2001/0041026 of Steinberg et al. ("Steinberg").

Applicant submits that none of the above cited references, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests the limitations of a first plate having a plurality of v-shaped grooves to hold a set of optical fibers and a second plate having a v-shaped groove to hold a secondary optical fiber, where the second plate being disposed and movable with respect to a surface of a base member and the first plate to enable an optical coupling of the secondary optical fiber to one of the set of optical fibers, as claimed in independent claims 1 and 12 of the present application. As a result, for at least the reasons set forth above, independent claims 1 and 12 are patentable over the cited references.

Given that the claims 2, 4-7, 10-11, and 15-17 depend from one of the above independent claims, for at least the reasons similar to those discussed above, claims 2, 4-7, 10-11, and 15-17 are patentable over the cited references.

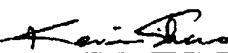
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 10/8, 2003



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